

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03365 280401Z
ACTION AID-31

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-----114302 290329Z /66
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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0789

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 3365

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID
SUBJECT: PROPOSED ASIA FOUNDATION PROGRAM FOR SINGAPORE

REF: A) SINGAPORE 3015, B) STATE 171168

1. LOCAL ASIA FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE HAS APPROACHED US CONCERNING THE TWO ASIA FOUNDATION PROJECTS FOR SINGAPORE OUTLINED IN REF B ABOUT WHICH WE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS IN REF A. SUBSTANCE OF REF A WAS APPARENTLY PASSED TO ASIA FOUNDATION IN WASHINGTON AND ON TO LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE, WHO HAS EXPLAINED PROJECTS IN GREATER DETAIL AND ASKED US TO RECONSIDER OUR RESERVATIONS.

2. ASIA FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE HAS ANSWERED NUMBER OF OUR DOUBTS ABOUT THE LEGAL AID BUREAU PROJECT, ALTHOUGH SOME POINTS REMAIN TO BE CONSIDERED. BEFORE WE CAN REACH FINAL DECISION AS TO ACTUAL VALUE OF THESE PROJECTS AND THEIR FEASIBILITY, HOWEVER, WE NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS TO FUNDING.

3. AS AID/WASHINGTON AWARE, SINGAPORE HAS NOT BEEN RECIPIENT OF ANY U.S. CONCESSIONAL AID. THIS HAS NOT PARTICULARLY BOTHERED SINGAPOREANS, BUT THEY ARE CONSCIOUS OF FACT THAT THEY ARE ONLY NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRY IN SOUTH OR EAST ASIA WHOSE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS HAVE NOT BEEN AIDED BY USG FUNDS. AFTER
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DECADE OF OUR STANDING ASIDE IN AID FIELD, SINGAPOREANS COULD BECOME SOMEWHAT SUSPICIOUS TO SEE US FOR THE FIRST TIME MOVING IN WITH AID FUNDS FOR A PROJECT WHICH, ONCE SUSPICIOUS ARE KINDLED, COULD BE CONSTRUED AS MEDDLING IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

4. WE DOUBT THAT GOS WOULD HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY IN PERMITTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID BUREAU TO ACCEPT INTERNSHIP

FINANCED BY ASIA FOUNDATION OR ANY OTHER PRIVATE AMERICAN ENTITY.
IF PROPOSED GRANT IS CARRIED IN OUR BOOKS AS U.S. GOVERNMENT
AID TO SINGAPORE AND IF SINGAPORE IS THEREUPON DULY LISTED IN
AID/WASHINGTON PUBLICATIONS AMONG RECIPIENTS OF U.S. ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE, HOWEVER, SOME LOCAL RESENTMENT COULD BE GENERATED
DESPITE FACT AMOUNTS INVOLVED ARE TRIVIAL.

5. COULD AID/WASHINGTON PLEASE CLARIFY HOW PROPOSED FUNDING
OF THESE TWO ASIA FOUNDATION PROPOSALS WOULD BE HANDLED. WILL
THEY BE CARRIED AS U.S. ASSISTANCE TO SINGAPORE IN AID'S BUDGET?
INGRAHAM

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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